

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of a copyright medium, comprising:

- an encrypted copyright medium for sale;
- a copyright medium identification database storing a copyright medium unique identification database for use in uniquely identifying the copyright medium and a cipher key database;
- ~~an Smart card or other~~ a recording medium;
- ~~an Smart card or other~~ a recording medium data reading/writing device, ~~which is capable of~~ for writing data into said ~~Smart card or other~~ recording medium; and
- a fingerprint authentication device for collating and identifying fingerprint data of a purchaser of said copyright medium, wherein

data is read from said copyright medium identification database ~~in order~~ to write the copyright medium unique identification database and the cipher key database into said ~~Smart card or other~~ recording medium ~~by using said Smart card or other~~ recording medium data reading/writing device,

~~wherein~~ fingerprint data of the purchaser of said copyright medium is read ~~by~~ using said fingerprint authentication device, and

~~wherein the purchaser's~~ fingerprint data of the purchaser, the copyright medium unique identification data, and the cipher key are written into ~~the Smart card or other~~ said recording medium ~~by using the Smart card or other~~ said recording medium data reading/writing device.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~a the data structure of data written into or read to or from said Smart card or other~~ recording medium ~~comprises~~ has a structure comprising a group of a plurality of copyright medium identification data, a group of cipher keys corresponding to a plurality of copyright mediums, purchaser's fingerprint data of the copyright mediums, and a group of purchaser's private data.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of a copyright medium, comprising:

- an encrypted copyright medium for sale;

a copyright medium identification database storing a copyright medium unique identification database for use in uniquely identifying the copyright medium and a cipher key database;

~~an Smart card or other a recording medium;~~

~~an Smart card or other a recording medium data reading/writing device, which is capable of for writing data into said Smart card or other recording medium;~~

a fingerprint authentication device for collating and identifying fingerprint data of a purchaser of said copyright medium;

a copyright medium reproducing device for reproducing or copying data from said copyright medium; and

an image/sound reproducer, wherein

data is loaded from said copyright medium and said ~~Smart card or other~~ recording medium into said copyright medium reproducing device, and

~~wherein~~ a fingerprint of the purchaser of the copyright medium is read by using said fingerprint authentication device and collated with purchaser's fingerprint data of the purchaser recorded in the Smart card or other said recording medium, and if they the fingerprint of the purchaser and the fingerprint data of the purchaser match, encrypted data in said copyright medium is decoded and reproduced by said image/sound reproducer.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of a copyright medium, comprising:

an encrypted copyright medium for sale;

a copyright medium identification database storing a copyright medium unique identification database for use in uniquely identifying the copyright medium and a cipher key database;

~~an Smart card or other a recording medium;~~

~~an Smart card or other a recording medium data reading/writing device, which is capable of for writing data into said Smart card or other recording medium;~~

a fingerprint authentication device for collating and identifying fingerprint data of a purchaser of said copyright medium;

a copyright medium reproducing/copying device for reproducing or copying data from said copyright medium; and

an image/sound reproducer, wherein

data is loaded from said copyright medium and said ~~Smart card or other~~ recording medium into said copyright medium reproducing/copying device, and ~~wherein~~

a fingerprint of the purchaser of ~~the~~ said copyright medium is read ~~by~~ using said fingerprint authentication device and collated with purchaser's fingerprint data of the purchaser recorded in ~~the Smart card or other~~ said recording medium, and if ~~they~~ the fingerprint of the purchaser and the fingerprint data of the purchaser match, encrypted data in said copyright medium is decoded and reproduced by said image/sound reproducer or copied after transferring the copyright medium unique identification database and the cipher key database to another copyright medium reproducing/copying device.

5. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording medium is a Smart card.

6. (New) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said recording medium is a Smart card.

7. (New) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said recording medium is a Smart card.

8. (New) An apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of digital data, comprising:

a recording medium into which cipher key data decoding encrypted digital data and fingerprint data of a purchaser of the encrypted digital data are written when the purchaser is purchasing the encrypted digital data; and

a fingerprint authentication device for reading, collating, and identifying fingerprint data of a person who is to reproduce the encrypted digital data and the fingerprint data of the purchaser recorded in the recording medium, and for authorizing decoding of the encrypted digital data using the cipher key data when reproducing the encrypted digital data.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the recording medium is a Smart card.

10. (New) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the encrypted digital data written into the recording medium has a structure including a group of identification data of recording mediums, each medium having the encrypted digital data recorded therein, a group of cipher keys corresponding to the plurality of recording mediums, purchaser's fingerprint data for the recording mediums, and a group of purchaser's private data.

11. (New) The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:
 - a recording medium reproducing/copying device for decoding and reproducing or copying the encrypted digital data with authorization for decoding the encrypted digital data using the cipher key data given by the fingerprint authentication device; and
 - a reproducing device for reproducing the encrypted digital data after decoding.